



ELECTION RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

What an exciting year to teach U.S. History, Civics or American Government! A Presidential Election is always a source of exciting classroom debate. On the heels of the most contested Presidential election in U.S. History, the 2004 Election should be an event that can be brought to life and made very memorable for students. There are a variety of sources available to teachers that help plan lessons that will help students understand the political process, as well as build academic skills. The following resources should prove helpful to educators. Rather your interests might include taking a class to earn Professional Development credit, or simply browsing the web, the information below will hopefully help you be more effective in the classroom.

Earn Professional Development Credit.

Davis School District is offering an online Professional Development Course titled ***2004 Elections: Teaching Responsible Citizenship***. In preparation for teaching the 2004 Elections, this course is designed to assist educators in teaching students responsible citizenship. Participants will explore Internet resources for teaching U.S. History, Civics, and Government, learn methods for infusing Service-Learning into their classrooms, and learn how to implement mock elections. The course will be delivered online, allowing participants to independently complete requirements by the course completion date. Preparation of a lesson from each focus area, or an equivalent unit of study from one area of focus is required for successful completion of the course. Those enrolled must have an e-mail address and access to a high speed Internet connection. **Dates:** There currently two sessions being offered: (Watch for the addition of an additional date in September.)

June 14-July 9 (Course ID # 10205553)

August 2-August 27 (Course ID# 10205554)

To Enroll: Phone Davis School District Staff Development at 801-402-5128 or 801-402-5304 or email ealldridge@dsdmail.net. On, or near, the start date of the course, participants will receive from the instructor instructing them how to access the course. The course is free to Davis District certified employees. There is a \$25.00 charge for Non-District Participants. 6 Minimum, 30 Maximum. Teachers can receive up to one semester credit hour for participating in this class.

Explore the Web for Resources.

Dirksen Congressional Center

This is an award winning site that deserves time to explore. Lessons on the function of

Congress, interactive activities for students, and lessons on history and government can be found here. Congress is our law-making branch. Help students better appreciate its role, and understand the importance of those that serve there.

Project Vote-Smart

This is a wonderful site to find information on candidates and issues in upcoming elections.

The Political Quiz Show

This is an interesting quiz will help your students determine if they are Democrat or Republican. A pictorial chart at the end of the quiz helps students see how they compare to the views of some famous Americans.

Choosing a Political Candidate

The Voter's Registrar Association of Virginia has put together a quick reading that you might find helpful in teaching students ways to evaluate candidates.

Republican National Committee

Everything you or your students may have ever wanted to know about the Republican Party is here. Find out about its history, why it is know as the GOP by clicking on the "About the GOP" link on the side bar. Photos, current news, events, and more will help you become better informed.

National Democratic Party

Learn more about these major political parties by visiting this site. Take advantage of links on the side bar to read the party's history, get news on the 2004 Convention, and discover what issues are important to Democrats in the upcoming election!

Issues 2004

This was an excellent site for review of the 2000 election. It is currently being revamped for the 2004 election. Check it out. There is a wealth of information all ready in place, with more in progress.

League of Women Voters Democracy.Net

This page contains a grid that details candidate's positions on a variety of issues. Select and issue, then read what each candidate has to say.

Election Resources from the Dirksen Center

This is a list put together by the Dirksen Center that is exclusively designed to help you teach election information. Project Vote-Smart, and Select Smart, which I have included below are duplicated. However, the rest are different and should be useful in helping you get additional information for personal knowledge and/or lesson planning.

National Student Parent Mock Election

This site contains a myriad of information about Mock election. Additionally, there is curriculum available for elementary and secondary teachers. The units were written under a grant from the United States Department of Education. They include integration of

reading and some math skills, to support the goals of No Child Left Behind. Be sure to study the lessons for your particular grade level. There are also applications for awards for outstanding voter education projects involving the 2004 election. Check it out!

Freedom's Answer

Following the September 11th tragedy, a group of teenagers became recommitted to patriotism in America. Read about their work, their plans to increase voter turnout and what you can do to involve your students.

First Vote Program sponsored by Close Up Foundation

For High School Teachers only: This link takes you to the First Vote program. Sign up for free video on the importance of voting and involve students in the process of registering to vote.